

# **SUPPORT TERM LIMITS**

## **COSPONSOR LEGISLATION LIMITING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO 12 CONSECUTIVE YEARS**

Dear Colleague:

With the approval rating of Congress near an all-time low, and more and more Americans saying that they perceive Congress as being “distant” and “out of touch,” it is imperative that we work to restore the trust of the American people. I believe that real change in Washington requires fresh thinking, which is why I am introducing legislation that will amend the U.S. Constitution to impose 12-year term limits on Members of Congress.

Under my proposal, Senators would be limited to no more than two consecutive full terms, while Representatives in the House would be limited to no more than six consecutive full terms. Upon the fulfillment of these term limits, Members would be eligible to begin a new round of service in Congress after waiting one year.

In instances of special elections occurring in the middle of a term, my proposal would follow the rules on Presidential term limits which recognize serving for over half of a term as one full term. Additionally, this amendment would not apply retroactively to terms served by Members of Congress prior to enactment.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the average length of service for members at the beginning of the 112th Congress was 9.8 years (4.9 terms) for Senators and 11.4 years (1.9 terms) for Representatives. My amendment thus reflects the current trends in Congress as it allows members wishing to serve the average, shorter length of time the ability to do so while also eliminating politics as a career option for others.

Real change in Washington requires fresh thinking. As Americans increasingly express concerns about career politicians who go to Washington and lose touch with the constituents they represent, I believe establishing term limits is an essential step to achieving our Founding Fathers’ vision for Congress as a body of citizen legislators who represent the will of the people.

I hope you will join me in cosponsoring this important constitutional amendment to reduce careerism in Congress and return the House and Senate back to citizen legislators. To cosponsor this bill or to receive more information, please contact Tate Bennett in my office at [tate.bennett@mail.house.gov](mailto:tate.bennett@mail.house.gov) or [202-225-4706](tel:202-225-4706).

Sincerely,

Andy Barr  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS